



◀ PRACTICING FOR PRISONERS

Camp New York, Kuwait

FOR soldiers of the 3rd Infantry Division's 3rd Military Police Battalion, handling enemy prisoners of war is a main mission, said MSG Tony McGee.

During a two-day exercise before the outbreak of war, the MPs set up a central enemy prisoner of war collection point at Camp New York to hone their EPW-handling skills.

McGee said the training focused on transferring and accounting for EPWs, their belongings and their weapons.

"If we go to war, officials expect large numbers of EPWs," he said. "Our soldiers' ability to handle that mission proficiently is extremely important."

"One of the primary differences between the Army and many of our adversaries' armies is that we treat prisoners of war with dignity and respect," said CSM Charles D. Medley.

He added that many times enemy soldiers are quick to surrender to Americans because they know they'll be housed and fed, and won't be mistreated.

"We constantly reinforce this to our MPs," he said. "Enemy prisoners of war are soldiers who fought on the other side, but they're still human beings."

Younger soldiers said the training was valuable.

"This was good training," said PV2 Ashley Hargett. "I learned what I need to do and what I need to improve on."

Although Hargett said she's nervous about the prospect of putting her training to use, she's not scared.

"I have a lot of confidence in my team," she said. "We have a lot of soldiers with experience who will help those of us with less experience."

— SPC Katherine Robinson, 50th Public Affairs Detachment

SPC Katherine Robinson

U.S., KOREAN SOLDIERS PARTICIPATE IN FRIENDSHIP RUN ▶

Camp Red Cloud, Korea

LED by their commanding generals and spurred on by catchy cadences in both English and Korean, soldiers from the 2nd Inf. Div. and Korea's 28th Div. teamed for the first 6-mile Friendship Run.

"I think this run symbolized the unity, power and strength of the U.S. and Republic of Korea armies," said CPT Dennis Ifurung, commander of Company C, 3rd Bn., 503rd Inf. Regiment.

Maj. Gen. Yun Il-Young, the commander of the 28th Div., said a strong bond exists between both country's armies and expressed gratitude for the support the United States has given his country over the years.

"In the Korean War we fought together for freedom," he said. "For the past 50 years we've defended that freedom together. I thank all the U.S. soldiers who've helped forge this bond."

— PVT Scott Akanewich, 2nd Inf. Div. Public Affairs Office



PV2 Scott Akanewich

ROCK, PAPER SCISSORS, FLAG ▶

PFC Nick Esenwick, a parachute rigger with the 82nd Airborne Div.'s Co. E, 782nd Logistical Task Force, lays rocks to form a large American flag in front of his sleeping tent at Kuwait's Camp Champion.

SPC Andrew Kosterman



GUARD SOLDIERS TREK 1,000 MILES

Fort Leonard Wood, Mo.

THE first leg of the deployment of the North Dakota National Guard's 957th Engineer Co. for possible duty in Southwest Asia was an 88-vehicle convoy from Bismarck, N.D., to Fort Leonard Wood.

1SG Kevin Remington said the trip allowed the unit's soldiers — who specialize in bridge building — to bond and provided an excellent opportunity to hone their driving skills.

"We're one of the country's first National Guard units to be equipped with new Oshkosh Common Bridge Transport trucks," said Remington.

He said the CBT is used to transport the components of the multi-role bridge the unit is tasked to erect. The 14-wheeled, 20-ton vehicle consists of an Oshkosh Heavy Expandable Mobility Tactical Truck, combined with a multi-lift load-handling system that also accommodates the ribbon bridge and combat support boat.


During the 1,000-mile trek from Bismarck to Fort Leonard

Wood the 181 soldiers became celebrities — people in towns along the way waved them through the streets with American flags, and truckers at rest stops wanted to shake their hands.

"I had a Desert Storm veteran give me a scarf with the words 'United We Stand' embroidered around the U.S. flag," said SSG John Walters. "He wants me to take it overseas with me. That meant a lot to me."

For some of the soldiers, leaving loved ones was the hardest thing they ever did, they said.

"It's extremely difficult leaving our 9-month old baby at home," said SSG Kelli Hatzenbuehler. She and her husband, Wade, both deployed with the unit. At the same time, they felt proud to answer their country's call to service, they said.

"I've been waiting and looking forward to this call since Sept. 11," said SSG Rita Eslinger. "We all left someone we love behind. We'll miss them, but we'll return to them as veterans." 

— CPT Chuck Mussi, National Guard Bureau PAO